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THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The consumption has increased much greater than production. Actually I have got the break-up of the consumption figures. Sixty-four thousand and six hundred bales were produced. Twenty-three thousand five hundred and thirty bales were consumed by handlooms. Thousand four hundred bales were consumed by powerlooms. This itself shows that the consumption of yarn has gone up phenomenally. We have very few powerlooms, but still 1,400 bales are consumed by them. The weaving mills consumed 9,900 bales. The quantity consumed by miscellaneous consumers for the manufacture of ropes, etc., is three to four hundred bales. The quantity exported to other places is 4,300 bales.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, from the statement placed on the table of the House, it is seen that the production of yarn of 31 to 40s has gone down. What is the reason for this?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : That would depend upon the market. If there is a demand for counts of over 40, there will be production. I think I can also say that there is one factor which has contributed to this. We have regulated the price of the yarn of 40s and below. Probably the mills thought of taking counts of over 40s so that they may get the market price on it.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : In order to circumvent the regulations or the fixation of price, the mills have taken this step. Will the Government see that such things are not adopted by the mills in future?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : They would not produce anything which has no sale in the market. If they produce counts of over 40s and do not find a market for it, then they will not produce it. Therefore, we cannot say that they have done so only to circumvent the fixation of price. Now the matter has become one past history. We have now regulated the issue of yarn by an agreement which the hon. Member himself knows.

State Transport

* 104 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the discourteous behaviour of the drivers and conductors of the State Transport buses towards the passengers;

(b) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the criticisms in the daily newspapers in regard to the rude behaviour of the drivers and conductors; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) to (c) Government are aware of complaints regarding discourteous behaviour of some drivers and conductors of the State Transport buses towards the passengers and of the criticism in the press on this subject. All

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individual complaints in this matter are being carefully enquired into and suitable action is being taken against such drivers and conductors as are proved to be at fault.

2. These complaints are generally about buses not stopping at particular bus stops, conductors refusing to allow passengers to get into buses, issue of change to passengers and delaying of buses at fare stages for issue of tickets. Government are trying to remedy these defects by—

(*a*) putting more buses on the road;

(*b*) increasing the number of stand conductor in order to reduce pressure of work on the line conductors;

(*c*) experimenting with automatic ticket issuing machines to enable the conductors to issue tickets at a faster rate.

3. As regards buses not stopping at some bus stops, enquiries show that in some cases the buses are either already overcrowded or else they are operating on limited stop services and are not scheduled to halt at certain bus stops.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact that some of the conductors are indulging themselves in singing lustful songs when lady passengers are present in the bus?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I am not going into the details of all types of misbehaviour. If any such complaint is received, the Government will take very serious notice of it and give very severe punishment also.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Is it not a fact, Sir, that during the "Courtesy Week" held every year, the conductors are specially instructed to address passengers in plural? That is the way of treating people with respect in Tamil as *'போங்கள்'* instead of *'போ'* and *'உட்காருங்கள்'* instead of *'உட்கார்'*

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : 'Courtesy Week' had no effect on discourtesy. (laughter.) If this state of affairs persists, we intend raising the level of recruitment. We will try to get people with higher educational qualifications.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware of the complaint that drivers move the vehicles even while the passengers are just on the point of boarding it?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I would ask for co-operation from the public. If they would only write to the Secretary to the Government in charge, we will enquire into it and take severe action.

திரு. எம். சுப்பையா செட்டியார் : மரியாதை வாரம் சென்னையில் நடப்பதாகச் சொல்கிறார்கள். இதை மாவட்டங்களில் நடத்த அரசாங்கம் ஏற்பாடு செய்திருக்கிறதா?

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கனம் திரு. ஆர். வெங்கட்ராமன் : அரசாங்க பஸ்களில் நடத்தப்படுகிறது. மரியாதை வாரம் நடத்துவதில் மற்றபடி ஜில்லாக்களைப்பற்றி எனக்குத் தெரியாது.

திரு. ஏ. கஜபதி நாயகர் : பஸ்களில் ஏறும் வழி, இறங்கும் வழி என்று இரண்டும் இருக்கிறபோது ஏறும் வழியிலேயே இறங்க வேண்டுமென்று மக்களைச் சில இடங்களில் தொந்தரவு செய்வது அரசாங்கத்திற்குத் தெரியுமா? குறிப்பாக இந்த செக்ரட்டேரியட் முன்னேயே அப்படி நடக்கிறது.

கனம் திரு. ஆர். வெங்கட்ராமன் : அது யாருடைய தவறு என்று தெரியவில்லை. பிரயாணிகள் தவறு, கண்டக்டர்கள் தவறு என்று பார்க்கவேண்டும். அந்த விதமான புகார்களை டைரக்டர் அவர்களுக்கு எழுதினால் நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பார்கள்.

திரு. ஏ. கஜபதி நாயகர் : கண்டக்டர்கள் அப்படிக் கட்டாயப்படுத்துவதால்தான் மக்கள் இறங்குகிறார்கள். மக்களுக்கு அப்படிச் செய்ய இஷ்டமில்லை.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Sir, is it not a fact that in privately operated buses, such discourteous behaviour on the part of the conductors is dealt with promptly?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I do not want to cast any aspersion on individual operators . I want to improve mine. But I have received such complaints also from other operators. I think the conductors, as a rule, belong to the same class of men **(laughter).**

Housing Colonies

* 105 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the **Hon. the** Minister for Industries be pleased to **state—**

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to construct housing colonies for the Government servants; and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) A statement [a] is laid on the table of the House.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, from the statement, it is seen that the Government are constructing houses only in the City. May I know whether they have got any proposal to construct housing colonies for Government servants in the mofussil towns?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The Government have already asked the Collectors of districts to find out suitable land for building rental houses in their respective headquarters. We have already taken steps in the Coimbatore district, Tiruchirappalli district, and in a few others.

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[a] **Printed as Appendix II on pages 39–40.**